United Nations S/PRST/2000/28

Security Council

Distr.: General
7 September 2000

Original: English

Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 4194th meeting of the Security Council, held at the level of Heads of State and Government on 7 September 2000, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Ensuring an effective role for the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security, particularly in Africa", the Heads of State and Government agreed that the following statement on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which had been discussed and agreed upon by the Permanent Representatives of the States members of the Security Council in the Council's prior consultations, should be issued as a Presidential statement by the Summit:

"The Security Council is deeply concerned at the continuation of the hostilities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, at the dire consequences of the conflict for the humanitarian situation and at reports of abuses of human rights and of illegal exploitation of that country's natural resources.

"The Security Council reaffirms the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and of all States in the region.

"The Security Council calls on all parties to the conflict to cease the hostilities and to fulfil their obligations under the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement (S/1999/815) and the relevant resolutions of the Security Council.

"The Security Council takes note in this context of the statements issued by Uganda and Rwanda relating to measures towards disengagement and withdrawal of their forces which are present in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It calls for the accelerated withdrawal of Ugandan and Rwandan forces and of all other foreign forces from the territory of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in full compliance with its resolution 1304 (2000) of 16 June 2000.

"The Security Council calls on all parties to respect human rights and international humanitarian law, and provide access for humanitarian relief personnel.

"The Security Council calls on all the Congolese Parties, and in particular on the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to engage fully in the national dialogue process as provided for in the Ceasefire Agreement and to support in this regard the efforts of the facilitation.

"The Security Council calls on the Parties to the Ceasefire Agreement to engage in a sincere dialogue to implement this Agreement and to agree on

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ways to give a new momentum to the peace process. It expresses its support for the efforts of His Excellency Dr. Frederick J. T. Chiluba, President of Zambia, and other leaders of the region to this end.

"The Security Council is ready to assist in the peace process, in particular through the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), in accordance with its resolution 1291 (2000) of 24 February 2000. It deplores that the continuation of the hostilities and the lack of cooperation by the parties have prevented the full deployment of MONUC. It takes note of the commitments by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to support the deployment of MONUC and urges it to honour its particular responsibilities as the host Government of the Mission. It calls on the parties to demonstrate their will to move the peace process forward and to cooperate effectively with MONUC in order to allow its deployment."